

ENVIRONMENT — PERTH AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

783. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to question on notice 719 asked on 10 May 2022, and I ask:

- (a) considering that the Perth Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) is now more than 21 years old and has not been updated since the 2007 review, when is the updated AQMP referred to by the Minister in his response, likely to be completed; and
- (b) what guidelines or policies are in place to reduce the number of exceedances of the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure standards in the Collie, Bunbury and Busselton airshed?

**Hon Stephen Dawson replied:**

- (a) The Perth Air Quality Management Plan provides a responsive management framework for addressing contemporary air quality issues. Revision of the Plan is being considered by the Air Quality Coordinating Committee.
- (b) Air quality in Bunbury, Busselton and Collie is generally good. During 2020, airborne particles less than 10 micrometres in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>) and particles less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) met 24-hour National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure standards in these towns at least 97 per cent of the time. On the few days when the standards were exceeded, this was due to smoke from prescribed fire hazard reduction burns, wood-fired domestic heaters, bushfires or local burns.

The *Environmental Protection (Solid Fuel Heater and Firewood) Regulations 2018* set standards for all wood heaters offered for sale in Western Australia.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation will continue air quality monitoring in Bunbury, Busselton and Collie in accordance with the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure and use the results to determine if additional strategies to manage human activities that may affect air quality are required.